

REMARKS

In the Office Action of January 29, 2007, the Examiner has divided the claims into four (4) groups: Group I, claims 1-8, drawn to a method for detecting a senescent cell; Group II, claims 9-15, drawn to a method for modulating cellular senescence; Group III, claims 16-22, drawn to a composition for modulating cellular senescence; and Group IV, claims 23-27, drawn to a method for preventing modulating cellular senescence in a patient in need.

Applicants traverse this requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are earnestly requested.

The Examiner believes that Groups I-IV in the presently claimed invention are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Further, the Examiner believes that Groups I-IV lack the same or corresponding special technical features under PCT Rule 13.2. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

Applicants submit that Groups I-IV in the presently claimed invention share the special technical features of “inhibitor of adenylyl cyclase, an inhibitor of protein kinase A, and inhibitor of protein kinase A, an inhibitor of protein kinase A, and inhibitor of protein kinase C or an activator of Gi protein” and therefore, it is believed that unity of invention rules under PCT are satisfied.

Further, all of the inventive groups divided by the Restriction Requirement are directed to a method of detecting a senescent cell, and a composition and a method for modulating cellular senescence. Therefore, the claimed composition and the methods are closely related to detecting and treating cellular senescence using the inventive composition. Accordingly, all of the claims in Groups I-IV should be considered and examined as a single invention.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that there is not a serious burden placed upon the Examiner to search and consider all of the claims.

However, in order to be responsive to the outstanding Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group IV, claims 23-27, drawn to a method for preventing modulating cellular senescence in a patient in need, for prosecution on the merits, with traverse. Applicants specifically preserve the right to prosecute the non-elected claims.

In addition to the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has also required to elect a single species from two (2) groups, A) the types of alteration in signal transduction and B) the type/structure of inhibitor/activator.

Applicants traverse this requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are earnestly requested.

As discussed above, it is believed that the presently claimed invention is linked by the special technical features and therefore, the species identified by the Examiner relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

However, in order to be responsive to the outstanding species election requirement, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute an increase in activity or expression of adenylyl cyclase from group A and 9-(tetrahydro-2'-furyl) adenine from group B. It is believed that the elected species are readable upon all of the pending claims.

Accordingly, early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge JHK Law's Deposit Account No. **502486** for such fees required under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and to credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. **502486**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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